

Kevin Waring, Chairman
Local Boundary Commission
State of Alaska

Dear Mr. Waring,

This letter serves as a follow up to my presentation at the LBC hearing on February 8, 2003. In short, the city of Delta Junction wanted to convey the following points.

1. In light of missile defense related construction, scheduled development of the Pogo mine site and the large Slavic population in migration to the area, the city views the LBC efforts as a important issue that directly effects the region. To that end, the area is in the process of conducting a regional government options study. Our work shall be completed this summer. The effort will be an educational effort not an advocacy one. The area seeks to better understand this complex issue prior to taking any formal position on future regional government.

2. We recognize that the LBC used the model boundaries in its determination of whether an area could feasibly form a borough. However, we would request that the LBC in its deliberations consider and include the concept of two separate boroughs for the Upper Tanana region instead of one. Here's why:

A. The principal sub-regional political jurisdictions for the Delta area and the Tok area are separate. There are two separate and well-established school districts. The Delta area contains both the Deltana Corporation and the Delta Regional Economic Development Corporation which address a series of social and economic issues in that area. I am unaware of any relevant current socio-political nor economic linkage grouping or jurisdiction between the Tok area and the Delta area.

B. The economy of the two areas is distinctively different. Although like all highway communities, both areas rely on tourism, the broader Delta area economic base is military construction and operational activities, farming and soon mining at the Pogo site. The Tok economy lacks all three of these essential components. Moreover, Delta expects continued growth for the next 10 years. Tok does not expect any noticeable growth for the same time period.

C. Social services programs for the Tok region are principally provided by Tanana Chief's Conference (TCC). I am unaware of TCC providing any major programs in the Delta area.

D. The racial and ethnic makeup of Delta differs from Tok. Currently over 1,000 of the 3,600 residents of the Delta region are of Slavic decent. In fact 44% of the current grade school population is Slavic. All indicators point toward an even larger in migration of Slavic families in the years ahead. There is no similar in migration of Slavic families in the Tok area. Moreover, according to the LBC study (Chapter 2, page 79) approximately 2.5% of the residents in the Delta areas are either Alaska/American Native. In the Tok REAA, the same group represents about 24% of the area's population. Tok is clearly a hub for the surrounding villages. Delta does not have a similar relationship to any established villages in the area.

E. The Delta area does meet the minimum two communities standard for a borough. The region is composed of four communities: Healy Lake, White Stone, Ft. Greely and the broader Delta Junction area.

Again, we respectfully request the inclusion in your final report the listing of the Delta Greely REAA as a separate region for consideration for borough formation under the guidelines of the study.

Lamar Cotten